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to this Presidency will be secured not merely by the good-will of the Government of India, but by the active co-operation of our own representatives in the Central Legislature. I have already stated that given our own revenues we can contemplate a noteworthy and continuous development of our ameliorative programmes during at least three years, that too without any additional taxation. Such is the prospect opened before our eyes; it exceeds our most sanguine anticipations, and it is one which I venture to think this Council and the people of this Presidency will not readily forego.

"16. In conclusion it is once more my pleasant duty to record my grateful appreciation of the manner in which the Finance Secretary and his staff have discharged a task which becomes more strenuous and more complicated every year. To their capacity and zeal I am greatly indebted and feel sure that Honourable Members of the Legislative Council realize how much their labours facilitate our debates. My cordial thanks are also due to all Members of the House who during the past year have served on the Finance and Public Accounts Committees to which the department looks and not in vain for advice and support." (Cheers.)

VIII

DEMAND FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANT FOR 1926-27.

Grant XXIII.

* The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that

> '*the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs.* 50,000 *under* '*Grant XXIII—Civil Veterinary Services—Transferred*' *for the purchase of sera and vaccines required for the inoculation of cattle against rinderpest during the year* 1926-27.'

" Sir, contrary to our expectations, rinderpest was rather very severe in the current year. We had also other outbreaks to face, and they are—I hope I am pronouncing the names correctly—hæmorrhagic septicæmia and black quarter. We had made in the course of the year a provision in the budget for about Rs. 1,13,800, but as a matter of fact up to the end of December we had to exceed by a good figure the provision already made and probably the consumption of sera during the year would be six lakhs of doses for treating rinderpest, half a lakh for hæmorrhagic septacæmia and 22,000 for the disease called black quarter. The cost of all this, including that for railway freight and other expenses, would come to about Rs. 1,67,800, which means an excess of Rs. 54,000 over and above the amount already provisionally provided for. We can find Rs. 4,000 as savings under other units in the grant already provided for. There then still remains a sum of Rs. 50,000 for which I have come before the House with a demand for a supplementary grant. Rupees 6,000 can be effected under Grant XXIV Co-operative Credit and Rs. 10,000 under Grant XXII Agriculture, and the balance will be found under Grant XXX Civil Works. I beg to move the demand."

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*Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" Sir, I beg to move

'*that the allotment of Rs.* 50,000 *for Civil Veterinary Services—Transferred be reduced by Rs.* 100.'

" I wish to be enlightened on certain points in connexion with this extra grant. The note circulated to us is as short, as brief and as unenlightening as possible. The hon. the Minister has, I am afraid, forgotten that we are laymen and not experts in all these terminologies regarding these diseases as also about the financial provision made. After a great deal of trouble, I have found that this additional grant comes under touring establishment. At first our impression was that it came under hospitals and dispensaries, but now, after an amount of study which could have been saved if the hon. the Minister had given the particular sub-heading under which this item came—I think it would have saved about an hour's work which it has entailed on me in groping in the dark in attempting to find out what it is—we find that it comes under touring establishment. Now, assuming that it comes under touring establishments, I find that in the report for 1925–26 which the Government recently issued as also in the detailed report of the Veterinary Department which I have read somewhere else, a complaint has been made of the inadequacy of the establishment inasmuch as the authorities had to withdraw the establishment, which was meant for ordinary purposes such as inoculation and other things, to devote its time for extraordinary outbreaks.

" The result is that there has been, as has been pointed out, a decrease in the number of cases of contagious and non-contagious diseases treated by the itinerating officers. It was mainly due to the fact that they were engaged in extraordinary work consequent on a severe outbreak of rinderpest. That shows how inadequate the veterinary establishment is. I will not at present dwell on pay and other matters. This is a matter which has to be taken up next year. I do not know what steps Government have taken after they came to know of the continuous outbreak of the rinderpest epidemic to increase the necessary establishment which is essential for this purpose. For the next year, I find an increase of one veterinary assistant on a salary of Rs. 60—120. That shows that the Government is practically against providing the necessary establishments. It costs a lakh of rupees to supervise the work done and the treatment costs five lakhs. The money spent on the purchase of sera will be wasted. Either it will be used in a wrong manner or it will not be administered at all. Inoculation as such has been neglected. Government admits it. Inadequate establishment is admitted. Apart from that, I will mention another thing. We have got a number of sera. Nowadays we have got 'serum alone' and 'serum simultaneous'. I want to know what sort of serum will be specially selected. Various sera have been mentioned in the report itself. Government seems to be very chary in spending money on really efficacious sera. The effect of it is practically very little is done. There was an outbreak of rinderpest recently in the districts of Kurnool, Bellary, South Kanara, Ganjam, Kistna and Guntur. These places have been recently visited by the hon. Ministers. If they were really vigilant—perhaps they were busy receiving addresses—I want to know what really they have ascertained. I really doubt if any work has been done at all. In South Kanara, very little work can be done in the future without adequate establishment. There are five veterinary officers and they cannot attend to all the work.

1 p.m.

When the officer arrives, there is not the necessary serum or it arrives too late. In that way there is very little done and the little that is done is either imperfect or useless. I hope, therefore, Government will look very carefully into the necessity of dealing with these outbreaks in South Kanara and other districts. Great havoc has been played by this epidemic and the slow and inadequate action of the Government is simply surprising to the people in the districts. I hope, further, the Government and the hon. Minister will give more enlightenment on the subject as to what really they are going to do and how they are going to spend the one and a half lakhs of rupees. Probably most of the money has already been spent. But I hope the operations will have also to be continued for meeting the situation. For preventing the outbreak there is another thing to be done. To a great extent the outbreak is due to the inadequacy of feeding. In South Kanara and other districts pasture is so little that cattle are starving and it is no wonder they are subject to rinderpest. Government have not attempted to eradicate the root cause. Starvation is a pre-disposing cause for spread of rinderpest. There is a belief that the Forest department and the other departments are responsible for cutting down the pasture grounds. I hope the hon. Minister will look into this question in consultation with the Revenue Department and the Forest Department. These two departments are responsible for a good deal of the trouble by the cutting down of the pasture grounds and the levying of the exorbitant rate of fees for grazing. These are points which Government should look into very carefully and they should do their utmost by providing adequate establishment, by looking very carefully to the more efficacious serum and also by adopting the preventive remedies against the spread of the disease."

* Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar :—"I do not want to be considered as one who is opposing this grant for such a useful purpose. At the same time I would like to urge certain points from the villagers' point of view on the attention of the hon. Minister. Government has recently stated its policy on itinerant veterinary dispensaries."

* The hon. the President :—"The practice of this House regarding supplementary demands hitherto has been not to refer to the policy of the Government or of the whole department. The hon. Member is requested to confine his remarks to the amendment moved by the hon. Member for South Kanara with regard to the adequacy of the establishment to carry on the serum operations, the efficacy of the various sera and remedies mentioned, omitted or neglected, etc."

* Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar :—"I have no idea of criticising the whole department. What I wanted to say was when the Government have abolished the itinerary dispensaries how large quantities of the serum can be utilized. As it is, I know that rinderpest is a very terrible disease, as deadly as cholera among human beings. The belief of the ryot is that cattle rarely survive an attack. But even the so-called ignorant ryot now understands the value of inoculation. The difficulty at present felt by him is that he never gets the relief when he wants it. The dispensaries are so far apart that if the hon. Minister will look into the number of cases treated in the dispensaries I do not think the average will be more than 3·5 or 4·5. If the hon. Minister will promise to bear this request in mind and see that the relief is taken to the villager and the poor cattle without merely expecting the cattle to come to the

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dispensaries which are far away, I do not think we need object to the grant. As regards North Arcot, in the taluk of Arkonam, where there was an outbreak of this disease recently, the ryots wanted the veterinary assistants. None was to be had. Once a man turned up. His services were appreciated. I know there is hardly much work done in most veterinary dispensaries. The number of cases treated daily is almost negligible, and even the few animals treated are often not the ryots' cattle but probably the pet animals of local officials. Recently I had to take to the notice of the hon. Minister himself the case of a veterinary assistant in a certain mufassal town—I need not mention it here—who is always engaged in communal politics and whose dispensary is a sort of public reading room for discussion or communal politics. Once again I would request the hon. Minister to see that in the case of such outbreaks whether there is a call or not, let the veterinary assistant go to the ryots with his remedies. I can quote other instances where the veterinary assistants go and sit in their houses and carry on political propaganda. The average number of cases that he treats is 3½ or 4½. The sum of Rs. 50,000 is not much for this House to vote. In the near future they are going to vote away several crores. I should not be taken as objecting to this. I only say that better arrangements ought to be made to make the remedies reach the home of the ryots."

*Mr. A. B. Shetty :—" Sir, I wish to confine my remarks only to the two methods of inoculation mentioned here. There is first the serum-alone method, which is the method that is mostly adopted in this province. We find from the cases inoculated in 1925-26 that 146,119 inoculations were made by the 'serum-alone' method and only 529 inoculations were made by the 'serum-simultaneous' method. Now, it is generally admitted by all veterinary surgeons that this serum-alone method is practically useless, as it confers immunity only for about a week. As the immunity conferred by the serum-alone method is only for so short a period, it becomes necessary to reinoculate the cattle in the places stricken with rinderpest, and we generally find that ryots are unwilling to submit their cattle to reinoculation and even in cases where they get them reinoculated, it so happens the rinderpest continues for a long period, say at least for one or two months, in an area which is affected and then the cattle that are inoculated, or even reinoculated, do fall a prey to the contagion which they get from the neighbouring villages if not from the same village. This has been found out by experience in Mysore also where they have given up now this serum-alone method and taken to the serum-simultaneous method because the latter confers immunity for a longer period. So I would submit, Sir, that the hon. the Minister should look into this matter and consider whether in view of the fact that the serum-alone method confers immunity for only a very short period we should not popularise the other method, the serum-simultaneous method, and bring it into more widespread use. Otherwise, it will be merely a waste of public money, as we are spending as much as Rs. 139 thousand and odd on this serum-alone method of injection. And if it does not afford immunity and does not protect our cattle sufficiently, it is up to the hon. the Minister to see that the other method which is admittedly more effective and which confers immunity for a much longer period is brought into operation."

1-15 p.m.

*The Zamindar of Gollapalli :—" Mr. President, Sir, rinderpest is a contagious disease caused by germs entering the system of cattle through the media of food, water and air. This fell contagion causes much havoc to the

poor ryot who solely depends on the wealth of his cattle for agricultural and dairy purposes. I am aware, Sir, of some poor ryots who were deprived of all their cattle by this cruel contagion. Sir, consider an unfortunate poor tenant whose cattle is visited by this cruel disease at a time of harvest or sowing. External help would be refused for fear of contagion. He would not be able to carry on his work with his remnant of cattle. He cannot get even hired cattle in rural areas. So he would perforce have to leave his fields uncultivated for the year and starve with his prolific family.

" Mr. President, placing this picture before you, I proceed to consider how far the Veterinary department is helping to put out this and such like cattle pests in rural areas. First of all, let me say, Sir, that there are very few rural dispensaries placed within reach of innocent and superstitious rural population and they are all situated in some urban locality which is beyond their reach. I regret to note that there is no proper propaganda, both experimental and theoretical, in rural areas. The department as it stands is only helping the few educated urban localities of the Presidency. The anti-germicide serum is lastly used in rural places. If a man from a village seeks the help of a veterinary physician he would come there after a day or two at his leisure in his motor-bicycle and would then examine the cattle. He would not care to diagnose the disease properly. He would think himself a demigod and would shower peremptory orders on the inhabitants of the locality without giving reason. He would not try to persuade and make them believe in the germ infection. The villager would then go his own way after the physician had got on his bicycle. He would not care to observe the precautions and instructions given by the physician because he would not be able to understand and believe them. The fell disease would do its work of destruction.

"Mr. President, Sir, my sincere opinion is that this department is not shouldering its full responsibility. Let us now consider how the department can benefit the Presidency. There should be more dispensaries in the rural areas, and a careful selection of physicians who will freely mingle with the people and think of the welfare of the land. The assistants should get the anti-rinderpest serum and other sera fresh from the laboratory and use them then and there. Thus you would lessen the pest and would create confidence in the minds of rural people. When they come to believe this treatment, every few villages can be made to maintain one physician of their own, because India is dependent entirely on cattle for agriculture which is the main industry of the country from time immemorial to time infinity.

" As for preventive measures for the disease, the villagers are not carrying out the instructions of the physician in regard to the contact of food, drink and air. So, Sir, the hospitals must be placed outside villages in the porambokes to which place no cattle resort. The cattle that is attacked by the fell disease should be sent to the hospital for treatment and the owner can tend his cattle in the hospital itself under the direct supervision of the physician. He shall be made to clean the cattle shed in his home on hygienic principles in times of contagion before using it for other cattle. If any cattle dies out of contagion before leaving the shed, its carcase shall not be left alone but shall be buried in the presence of the headman of the village.

" Sir, you may ask me why these executive compulsions are necessary. The rural population are not believers in the theory of germ infection but

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would go on with their *Jatras* and sacrifices and lose further. So, to make them believe, the department must work successfully among them. Its success in checking the contagion depends mostly on the preventive methods. So, Sir, these two are *inter alia*. Therefore, if executive enforcement is brought as a medium between the two, the department would be successful and be useful to the Presidency.

"With these few suggestions for the working of the department, I support the grant."

*The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, I am much obliged to the very helpful and informing criticism that has been given expression to from more than one quarter in this House. My hon. Friend Mr. Saldanha was not really complaining about the grant that I have moved. But his complaint rather is that I have not asked for more. He says there is so much more work to be done, more establishment to be provided for, that what I have asked does not really go far. That is a fact, I admit. But what I have to-day been asking for is not for more dispensaries, or more hospitals or for more touring assistants but for more serum to meet the situation that has arisen in the course of the year. About that, Sir, my hon. Friend, I think, has really no objection to advance. If any dispensaries have been closed to release the assistant in charge to look to the outbreak of rinderpest, I am willing to look into that matter if it is brought to my notice. But so far as Mangalore is concerned, I venture to think that the assistant in charge of that dispensary has never been deputed outside Mangalore for work of this sort. There may be a touring assistant attached to that dispensary, who I think rightly is asked to attend to such outbreaks, because as a matter of fact I do not think he has enough work to do in addition to the assistant already in charge of the dispensary."

*Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"On a point of personal explanation, Sir, I referred only to a fact contained in the official report for 1925–26. There it is said that the touring assistants who were attending to the work of inoculation had to be taken away to attend to outbreaks of contagious diseases."

*The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"I carefully listened to my hon. Friend and I thought I heard him also specifically refer to the dispensary at Mangalore. If he did not do so, I have nothing further to say in the matter.

"My hon. Friend Mr. Adinarayana Chettiyar then made a complaint that in the dispensaries there may not be enough work for each assistant in charge to do. He said that the average attendance is 3–5 per day. If there are any such cases, I should be obliged if information is given to me about them. Then, I shall certainly enquire why it is there are not more cases coming to that hospital. Is it because that the cattle are so healthy that there is no sickness among them at all, or is it for any other cause? But, so far as my inspection has gone on till now, I have not come across a dispensary where the attendance has been so poor as that described by my hon. Friend. He also mentioned that in North Arcot when there was an outbreak of the disease there was no help forthcoming. I do not know when it was. But if such cases occur and they are brought to the notice of the Government, I have not the slightest doubt that the Veterinary Adviser to the Government will certainly see that relief is afforded as early as possible.

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"My hon. Friend, Sir, again said that there has been only an increase of one veterinary assistant in the coming year as compared with the current year. I venture to think that if he would go into the budget once again carefully he would find that there are as many as twelve additional assistants, if not more. I am not myself satisfied with this twelve, and I do hope it will be possible to have a larger number of assistants not only touring in the country but also in charge of the dispensaries, at least at the rate of one for each taluk.

"I agree with the Zamindar of Gollapalli that the department should be made to do the maximum amount of work it can, and I shall certainly be glad to have any suggestions that may be advanced from whatever side for developing the department. So far, I have not heard any reasons really to reduce the grant by Rs. 100 on the ground that the serum asked for is not needed or cannot be utilized. In fact, we have use for all the serum that I have asked for, and I do hope that the grant will be passed. I am sure my hon. Friend Mr. Saldanha has not said the last word about serum, and I know there are many opportunities and occasions on which this question may come up ; when motions are discussed during the course of the next fortnight, I am sure, Sir, there will be fresh opportunities to draw pointed attention to these matters, and then it may be possible to discuss the other items which are not relevant to the matter under discussion to-day. I hope, Sir, the hon. Member will withdraw his amendment."

1-30 p.m. * Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—"As to the points explained by the hon. the Minister for Agriculture, I should seriously question the policy of the Government in going in for these inoculations during periods of epidemic only. If it is admitted by the Agricultural department that the so-called serum simultaneous method is going to confer immunity on the cattle then why should they wait for the epidemic to break out and then only treat the sick animal? I should like to know from the hon. the Minister why Government should not start immunising the animals beforehand. From the statistics in their possession, they must be in a position to know when these epidemics are breaking out. From my observations I find that this epidemic of rinderpest occurs in regular cyclic periods of once in five years. It lasts for two years and then disappears. The immunity conferred by inoculation lasts for five years. After five years they are again attacked. Then only the Government step in and they begin treating the rich man's animal. That is my experience in Madras. They have treated about 900 bulls belonging to the Corporation of Madras. They started first with the serum method. It was found that the immunity was for nine days and they went on inoculating each bull once every nine days. When the animal was under treatment it was on the sick list. Can the poor man, I ask, afford to put his animal on the sick list for a long time when in fact he depends on it to feed him? With the six lakhs of doses for which the hon. Minister is asking for a grant, I should like to know from him how many animals are going to be treated. The total mortality last year was 45,000 and giving each bull 20 doses, 9 lakhs of doses would have been necessary to save the lives of these 45,000 animals that were carried away during the last epidemic of rinderpest. So that the serum method by itself is costly and the immunity conferred is questionable. You can only ward off the disease. In fact, among the shepherds in Madras, it has got into disfavour. They say that the serum brings on the disease in the animals and it kills them. If you

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want to do real scientific work you must go in for preventives when there is no rinderpest and inoculate them by the serum simultaneous method. Only one inoculation is necessary and the immunity conferred by it is five or six years. It is a simple operation and the animal need not be on the sick list for a long time. I think they have succeeded with the serum simultaneous method in South Africa. But in Madras, the inoculation method by serum or serum simultaneous method is not regular and is not carried on in such a way as to create confidence in the minds of the cattle-owners. Several accidents have happened in Madras and so the whole system is run down, particularly, by the ignorant people who own these cattle, and so when there are cases of rinderpest they are not reported. So I would request the hon. the Minister to devise ways and means to make the method popular and also to adopt the most up-to-date method instead of going in for the old, costly and wasteful method."

The motion for reduction was put and negatived.

The demand was then put and carried and the grant was made.

The House adjourned for lunch at 1-35 p.m.

After Lunch (2-30 p.m.).

IX

RESOLUTION REGARDING APPROPRIATION FOR MAJOR WORKS.

* The hon. Mr. T. E. Moir :—" Mr. President, I beg to move the following resolution :—

' *That in the case of any major work under the heads 15. Irrigation, 55. Irrigation, 41. Civil Works and 60. Civil Works, which is incomplete on the 1st April and for which there is no provision in the ensuing year's budget, this Council authorizes the continuation of the work up to the limit of the previous year's sanctioned appropriation, on condition that the previous year's total grant for the head concerned has not been exceeded by the expenditure on the work up to that limit and that a supplementary demand for the amount to be expended in the current year is placed before the Council at its first meeting after the 1st of April.*'

"I may say, Sir, that the object of this resolution is twofold. In the first place, during every financial year provision is made for a certain number of major works which it is expected will be completed within the financial year. Any small accidents towards the close of the financial year may prevent such anticipation from being realized under conditions which may make it too late to ask for provision in the following year. For example, sudden rains or the non-delivery of necessary material may cause unexpected delay and even where the work itself is actually completed, contractors may fail to draw bills which have been passed before the financial year has actually expired. The completion of the work or the payment for such bills has therefore either to be held up—in the latter case this is not permissible—until necessary funds have been provided by the Legislative Council or else payment has to be made in the absence of such provision. In the second place, there is a natural tendency on the part of disbursing officers to hasten payment in order to prevent financial provision from lapsing. This is part of what is generally known as the rush of expenditure in March, and leads to irregularities which have been animadverted upon by the Audit Department and not